

## LDOE Weekly Newsletter: March 26, 2024

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### Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Nearly three years ago, in response to the global pandemic and with the additional federal dollars available, we launched [Louisiana Comeback](#). I encouraged you to lock arms with our state agency around three priorities: academic recovery and acceleration, student attendance and well-being, and professional growth for educators. Since that moment, we have worked diligently to allocate resources and efforts toward those key areas.

While much work remains, our efforts have been fruitful. For example, Louisiana has advanced in national rankings and, most recently, an [independent Harvard/Stanford study](#) labeled Louisiana's work as a "remarkable achievement" as one of only three states where students have rebounded from the impacts of the pandemic. This is a testament to the work of our state's educators who have remained focused on teaching and learning.

As you may know, the window for investing the additional pandemic relief dollars — known as ESSER — is closing. Hopefully, you have engaged in conversations with your teams to discuss the Academic Return on Investment (AROI) of all efforts under your supervision. These discussions should prioritize spending remaining funds but also frame post-ESSER budgets to ensure we continue to drive student academic outcomes. Without a doubt, sensitive decisions must be made to narrow countless efforts.

For now, be reminded that contracts must be in place and purchase order requisitions must be submitted by September 30, 2024. However, we have provided a grace period until December 16, 2024. This means systems may continue to receive goods and also complete services and construction projects through that December amended liquidation date.

To provide you with an updated understanding of ESSER allocations, remaining balances, and allowable uses of funding, our team will begin sending monthly ESSER balance letters, the first of which will be emailed later this week. The intent of the letter is for school systems to use the information to ensure you have a plan to draw down all remaining funds before the deadline.

While I respect your decision-making process around the remaining dollars and have appreciated your resolve to support students, I would like to encourage spending in a few key areas with remaining funds if your budget allows:

1. **Teachers:** Other than the parent, there are few factors more important than access to an effective classroom teacher. ESSER provides teacher stipends as an allowable expense and given the growth our students have experienced, and the work ahead, Louisiana's teachers certainly deserve consideration for pay increases. While our state budget request includes \$2,000 teacher stipends for this upcoming year as well as an additional \$25M funding stream for teachers in key areas, systems also have the opportunity to supplement the pay of teachers with part of their remaining ESSER dollars. These stipends could be used intentionally to secure a high-quality

teacher for every student. It also could be utilized to pay teachers for summer collaboration and planning. Please give this action strong consideration as it would be welcomed by educators.

2. **Summer Programs:** Over the last few years, Louisiana has tripled the number of students participating in [summer programs](#). Through creative marketing, systems have combined fun activities such as sports and arts with academic coursework in reading and math. With the remaining dollars available, please consider a robust summer program — with transportation — during this upcoming summer. We believe this will combat summer learning loss and prompt academic improvement.
3. **Tutoring:** Systems across the state have lifted tutoring to new heights over the last few years and this has been helpful in addressing the individualized support students need. Louisiana seeks to become a national leader in offering tutoring during the day through our [Accelerate](#) initiative and after-hours through the [Steve Carter Program](#). Both of these efforts are in their infancy and we have enjoyed working with you to discuss this seismic effort. While we have also requested \$30M for tutoring in the MFP formula, tutoring funded by ESSER funds for both literacy and math can continue through December 16. Many of these purchases could be made through the remaining ESSER funds.

Please note that our team will support you through the close of ESSER. In fact, school systems and system leaders have done a great job with spend-down on ESSER I and II, utilizing over 99% of available funds. With planning and strong implementation, we can ensure the appropriate and complete utilization of ESSER III as well.

With this unprecedented infusion of additional funding, comes the great responsibility to maximize the impact on student achievement. It is critical school systems invest all of their allocated funds, and in a way that continues our Louisiana Comeback.

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

## Important Dates for School Systems

### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [March 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Schools Community of Practice Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [April 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [April 11 at 8 a.m.](#)
- BESE Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [April 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [April 11 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 11 at 10 a.m.](#)
- CLNA Technical Assistance #4 Perkins Super App Narrative and Budget Call: [April 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [April 17 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [April 18 at 3 p.m.](#)

### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- LEH [summer intensive teacher workshop](#) application deadline: April 1
- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Part B Webinar: [April 1 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 LSP Preliminary Rosters available on the FTP: April 1
- 2024-2025 LSP Preliminary Rosters due on the FTP: April 8
- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Parts C and D Webinar: [April 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Spring 2024 [Homeless Liaison and Parent and Family Engagement Conference](#): April 8 & 9

- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Robotics Lab Pilot Application](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Professional Learning Efficacy Evaluation](#) Survey Deadline: April 11
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

## Governmental, Administrative, Public Affairs, and Operations

### **Spring 2024 Homeless Liaison and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Conference**

**Please share with parent and family engagement coordinators, and homeless liaisons.**

The LDOE will be hosting the 2024 Spring Homeless and PAFE Conference for homeless liaisons and Title I parent and family engagement (PAFE) coordinators on Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9 at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. All PAFE coordinators should attend the half-day session from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 8. All homeless liaisons should attend on Tuesday, April 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees must [register](#) prior to the conference.

PAFE coordinators will review the federal mandates and conduct a needs assessment to align daily practices with national standards and compliance requirements. Homeless liaisons will take a deep dive into the McKinney Vento Law and review/reevaluate practices and student achievement supports and outcomes.

Please contact [antiqua.hunter@la.gov](mailto:antiqua.hunter@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### **K-3 Literacy**

**Please share with school leaders and test administrators.**

The End-of-Year (EOY) K-3 Statewide Literacy Screener administration window will begin on April 1 and close on April 30. The administration portal is open for test coordinators to review and/or update test coordinators, test administrators, and class rosters. There are a few things that are new to this administration:

- Kindergarten, first and second grade screeners are secure documents developed specifically for use only in Louisiana. Administration can only be conducted online and screeners cannot be printed, duplicated, memorized or photographed. Their contents cannot be discussed.
- Across district transfers can now be completed only by DTCs within the mCLASS system.
- There are two new custom demographics fields.
  - Accountability codes: this field allows administrators to apply an accountability code for students who had an excuse from screening. The approved use of codes is in the Louisiana Specific Instructions and Oaths of Security.
  - Accommodations: this field allows administrators to identify students who are receiving Louisiana-approved accommodations for testing. Accommodations cannot be listed individually in the system.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **2023-2024 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM**

**Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and teachers.**

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II EOC courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores. Social Studies rosters will not be available in the CVR because a new Social Studies test is being piloted in the 2023-2024 school year. Teachers do not need to verify any Social Studies class roster.

**March 18 - May 3** CVR will be open for viewing only. During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy, but cannot make changes in the CVR Portal. System Support will be available to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in EdLink 360. The CVR Portal will be updated daily during view-only to reflect any submitted changes to EdLink 360.

**May 6 - May 24** CVR will be open for roster verification. This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

The updated [Curriculum Verification and Roster Portal \(CVR\) User Guide](#) is now available.

Please contact [support@la.gov](mailto:support@la.gov) with questions regarding roster verification, or [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with general Compass related questions.

## **Cohort Graduation Data Certification**

**Please share with accountability contacts.**

Student-level rosters for the 2022-2023 graduation cohort will be available to accountability contacts on April 3 in La Data Review. Accountability contacts should work with each school in their district to determine the process for collecting documentation for any requested changes to limited data that will be reviewed by department staff for approval. The rosters will also include a flag for students who were dropped from enrollment as exiting to an out-of-state, approved non-public or home study school and are being audited by the LDOE.

Each accountability contact will receive login credentials and support documents in an email from Jennifer Baird prior to opening. It is extremely important for the LDOE to have up-to-date contact information.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **School Choice**

### Nonpublic Schools

#### **General Nonpublic School Office Hours**

**Please share with school administrators and school system employees.**

The Office of School Choice-Nonpublic Programs Team is offering office hours to provide one-on-one assistance regarding any questions regarding scholarship programs.

Office hours will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In order to make sure that every school has an opportunity to schedule a call, each call will be limited to 15 minutes. When [booking an appointment](#), please include a description of the discussion in the “booking notes” section of the form. This will ensure that our staff is prepared and can effectively use the time to address your concerns. If a scheduled time is missed, a new appointment time will need to be scheduled.

These services are only offered to school administrators and school system employees. Families with questions can consult the full [2023-24 Nonpublic Programs Scholarship Annual Calendar](#) for more information.

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

#### **Louisiana Scholarship Program Parent Survey**

**Please share with guidance counselors and school administrators.**

In an effort to improve the program and meet the needs of our stakeholders, we are conducting our annual Parental Satisfaction Survey. Parents will be emailed a web link to [complete the survey](#) online. It is important that parents complete the survey so that changes in the community and with the families of award recipients can be assessed. **Please remind parents to complete the survey by April 19.** There are no risks to parent privacy rights by participating in the survey.

Please contact [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) with questions.

## Charter Schools

### **Charter School Program Grant**

**Please share with charter operators, non profit organizations seeking charter authorization, and system leaders.**

The Charter School Program Grant Request for Application is now available at [Louisiana Believes](#). Schools that were approved to open Fall 2024 must submit the appropriate Letter of Intent no later than April 1, 2024. Charter operators working through the 2023-2024 application cycle may visit the Charter Schools Program Grant page for more information.

Please contact [tammy.morgan3@la.gov](mailto:tammy.morgan3@la.gov) with questions.

## School System Financial Services

### **FY 2023-2024 MFP Mid Year Adjustments**

**Please share with business managers.**

The MFP Mid Year Adjustment Calculations for FY 2023-2024 are posted in the MFP Library under the 2023-2024 MFP Budget Letter section.

Please contact [LDOEmpfhelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOEmpfhelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.

## Teaching and Learning

### Diverse Learners

### **FFY 24 IDEA Draft Application Posted for Public Comment**

**Please share with special education directors and stakeholders.**

Each year the LDOE submits an [IDEA Special Education Funding application](#). In February, 212 responses were received to the stakeholder input survey. The LDOE is currently accepting public comment for the draft of our IDEA application for FFY24. The grant application requires states to outline how state-level set aside funds will be spent in 15 different categories. To date, the final allocations each state will receive have not yet been released.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has advised states to prepare the application using allocations from the FFY23 application, and upon receipt of the allocation tables, to insert the most updated information with the application. The dollar amounts shown may change based on the total allocation received from the federal government. The LDOE will update this document, along with other application documents, when allocations are received. Please complete the [Louisiana IDEA Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application Public Comment Form](#) by April 19.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) with questions.

### **State Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open**

**Please share with administrators, community members, educators, parents, and students with disabilities.**

The LDOE is looking for individuals interested in serving on the state's [Special Education Advisory Panel \(SEAP\)](#), which advises and assists the LDOE with the provision of free and appropriate public education for individuals with disabilities across the state. Members of SEAP represent public and private sectors that by virtue of their position, interest, or training can contribute information in regard to the education of students with disabilities. Fifty-one percent of the members must be parents of a child with a disability (ages birth through 26) or individuals with disabilities. Anyone interested in serving in one or more of the roles listed on the application, should email their [application](#) to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) by April 8th.

Please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) for more information.

## Educator Talent and Workforce Development

### **Teacher Leader Summit: Tickets for NEW Teachers**

**Please share with new teachers and school leaders.**

The LDOE has 70 complimentary tickets to the 2024 Teacher Leader Summit for new teachers. Please either complete [this application](#) on behalf of your new teacher(s), or forward the application to the new teachers who would like to attend. This will be on a first-come first-served basis. This application will be open from March 26 - April 5. This ticket is for Summit entry only. Any travel costs will be assumed by the attendee or their school system.

Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with any questions.